IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

MICHAEL A. EPSTEIN

Serial No.: 08/994,878 HH 19 2000

Filed: 12/19/97

Atty. Docket

PHA 23,313

Group Art Unit: 2766

Examiner: H. SONG

TECH CENTER 270

Title: ADMINISTRATION AND UTILIZATION OF PRIVATE KEYS IN A

NETWORKED ENVIRONMENT

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

Amendment

Sir:

In response to the Office Action issued March 16, 2000, please consider the remarks that follow.

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated March 16, 2000. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the remarks to follow is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application of which Claims 1, 5, and 11 are independent claims.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-6, 11-13, 15, 16, 19, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,732,137 to Aziz ("Aziz"). Claims 7-10, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over, Aziz in